

# THE EUGENICS REVIEW

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# PERIODICALS

## American Journal of Physical Anthropology

**September 30, 1942. Vol. 29, No. 3.**—*Sex Differences in Epidermal Ridges on Finger-tips and Palms.*—By Edwin A. Ohler and Harold Cummins.—Females have finer ridges than males,  $23.4 \pm .07$  per centimeter as against  $20.7 \pm .09$  for males. In both sexes the ridges of the palm are coarser than those of the average finger-tip. The first finger has coarser ridges than the others and the right hand has coarser ones than the left, but the palms of the two hands do not show much difference. Ridge-breadth seems to vary directly with hand length to a small extent. Females vary less than males. Both sexes show greater variation in the ridges on the left hand than in those on the right.

*The Adult Scapula.*—By A. Hrdlicka.—The author gives results of measurements of over 3,000 adult scapulæ, ancient and modern, male and female, belonging to various peoples, and of some hundreds of foetal and juvenile scapulæ, and compares the results with those of earlier observers. The fundamental similarities throughout mankind are emphasized; convex scapulæ are commoner among full-blood American negroes and much commoner among Melanesians and Australians (small samples) than among whites, Eskimo and ancient Egyptians or the generality of North American Indians except Aleuts. The female scapula is more like the juvenile form than is the male.

**December 30th, 1942. Vol. 29, No. 4.**—*Crania of Siberia.*—By Ales Hrdlicka.—The distinguished author has for years been concerned with the origins of the American Aborigines and has given us surveys of physical characters of many of the aboriginal populations of America. In 1923 he wrote a paper emphasizing the resemblances between some American natives and various peoples of eastern Asia, and in 1935 he upheld the view that man came over very gradually and disconnectedly from Asia over a long period of time, bringing differences of type, language and colour, and that some of the people from Asia brought a fairly advanced culture with them. He thought that the main route skirted the western and southern coasts of Alaska, and he then thought that the Eskimo were among the latest comers. He now contributes an account of crania found in Siberia and we note that among 33 males the average cranial index is 73.5, the average for 18 females being a little over 75.4. The people concerned were thus rather extreme long-heads, as would have been expected from their distribution on the fringe of the Old World. He has also examined some crania of the dawn of the Bronze Age and finds their characters very similar.

His measurements of Paleosiberians generally show considerable persistence of this longheadedness, but also much influence of mongoloid traits. Resemblances to American peoples are emphasized throughout, and detailed data are given for individuals. The mongoloid peoples are looked upon as intruders into Siberia from the South.

*Conditions for Balancing the Head in Primates.*—By Adolph H. Scholtz.—The author shows that very much less strength is required to balance the head on the condyles in man than in the apes, but that the condition in very young apes is much nearer to that in man than is the state of affairs in the adult apes.

Fossil man does not to any large extent bridge the large gap between ape and man in this respect. There are also differences between different types of man and the author draws attention to the contrast between the Greenland Eskimo and the Chinese.

H. J. F.

## Archiv der Julius Klaus-Stiftung

**1941. Vol. 16, No. 3/4.**—*Beitrag zur kausalen Genese von Kopfmissbildungen bei Säugetier und Mensch unter Berücksichtigung der neuen entwicklungsmechanischen Experimente.*—By Walter Keller.—The findings of experimental genetic research, and the fact that in man head defects run in families, seem to prove that endogenous influences are responsible for the development of typical defects in the head. They must be present in the germinal cells as nuclear factors. Apart from acquired germinal defects, gene mutations may be observed which become manifest according to genetic laws. We may assume that the disturbance of the "head organisator" is due to the action of lethal factors, restricted in their actions to a certain period of embryonic life and able to damage single cellular complexes in a selective way.

*Ueber das Vorkommen von hereditärer juveniler Maculadegeneration (Typ Stargardt) bei zwei Geschwisterpaaren der Friedreich-Sippe "Glaser."*—By A. Franceschetti and D. Klein.—A report on hereditary progressive degeneration of the macula in two pairs of siblings of a family in which eight cases of Friedreich's ataxia have been described.

*Sporadisch Taubstumme in der ersten Hälfte des 18 Jahrhunderts und ihre Nachkommen.*—By K. Ulrich and A. Corrodi-Sulzer.—It seems likely that the sporadic foci of deaf mutism which have survived through centuries until the present time are comparatively rare and are commonly exceptions due to environmental influences; whereas the occurrence of recessive deaf mutism (of which a case is described in the article) in a modern fluctuating population may very well be the rule.

**1942. Vol. 17, No. 1/2.**—*Endemische Thyreopathie und Kapillarbild, mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Erbbiologie.*—By J. Eugster.—The examination of the connection between goitre and capillary volume in several hundred persons shows that in districts where goitre is endemic this disease may influence the capillary volume, which in its development must be influenced by exogenous factors. A direct influence of the goitre on the capillary volume is unlikely, but the fact that normal capillary volume is less frequent in the districts of endemic goitre may be explained by the frequency of circulatory diseases in such districts.

*Über Augenuntersuchungen und anthropologische Messungen an 22 Mongoloiden.*—By Robert H. von Muralt.—The profusion and irregularity of the single symptoms and signs of mongolism was observed in an examination of 22 mongols of 9½ to 45 years of age. All the cases showed shortness of body, brachycephaly, mental defectiveness, abnormal corneal refraction, and slanting of the palpebral axes.

*Zur Kenntnis der Geschmacksblindheit gegenüber Phenylthiocarbamid (P.T.C.) in der Zürcher Bevölkerung und deren Erbgang.*—By Ch. Botsztejn.—An examination of 544 persons in Zurich with respect to their sense of taste showed that not only is deficiency of this sense inherited but also its degree. It may be assumed that polyallelly is responsible; and distinguishing three degrees of sense of taste—discriminating, obtuse and absent—the normal gene for discrimination is dominant over those for obtuseness and absence, and the gene for obtuseness is dominant over that for absence.

F. F. TIETZE.

## Character and Personality

**June 1942. Vol. 10, No. 4.**—All the articles in this number deal with experiments or problems in the field of personality, which have little, if any, eugenic bearing. E. A. Haggard describes the use of children's fantasies about "Comic Strip" characters as a vehicle for the expression of their personality trends. W. Wolff shows that photographs of children's postures and gestures, together with their drawings and paintings, consistently reflect dominant traits. A. H. Maslow analyses the conception of "insecurity" in personality. R. Gould gives an account of ingenious investigations for producing emotional tension and repression in adults, under experimentally controlled conditions. P. H. Cook discusses the mental structure of Samoan natives in terms of Lewin's topology.

**December 1942. Vol. 11, No. 2.** *Speed and Pattern of Perception in Schizophrenic and Normal Persons.*—By A. F. Angyal.—The author used a simple test of perception of groups of letters exposed in a tachistoscope. Schizophrenic patients tended to make many more omissions and errors than mem-

bers of a normal control group. Some of the patients, in addition, made exceptionally large numbers of uncommon errors, and showed very low consistency in the letters which they perceived first in each group, and in the pattern which they followed in reading the groups. Whereas others showed the opposite, pedantically consistent and accurate, type of response. Most of the former patients were diagnosed by psychiatrists as of the hebephrenic type of schizophrenia, while the latter were mostly found to be paranoid. It is suggested that this test might constitute a useful index of personality types among normals, analogous to the Rorschach test but more objectively scored.

In the same number, S. Sarason and S. Rosenzweig show that responses to the Thematic Apperception Test can be used to predict a subject's hypnotizability. H. Lundholm and H. Lowenbach find that the alpha rhythm of the electroencephalogram is not affected by hypnotically induced visual or auditory stimulation.

P. E. VERNON.

## Human Fertility

**June 1942. Vol. 7, No. 3.**—*A Study of Viscosity and Adhesiveness as Factors in the Efficiency of Chemical Contraceptives. Part I.*—By John Tynen.—As the author points out, although much careful work has been put into the investigation of chemical substances lethal to sperms, resulting in the discovery of many potent spermicides, little methodical work has been done, or at any rate published, on the precise character of the base best suited to convey these spermicides. Ideally a vehicle should be readily smearable, have a considerable degree of adhesiveness, have a moderate viscosity at body temperature, allow of rapid diffusion of the spermicide into the vaginal and seminal fluids, be completely undamaging to the vaginal mucosa, be aesthetically acceptable, and be subject to no changes over long periods and under variable conditions of storage. This is a formidable list of requirements and in this and a subsequent paper Mr. Tynen attempts to establish standards for comparison and inter-relationship for some of these factors. He discusses the relationship which exists between the spermicidal efficiency of a preparation (as demonstrated by the rate of diffusion of the spermicide) and the consistence (viscosity and adhesiveness) of its base, and describes two ingenious but simple methods he has devised for estimating relative values for the latter. In order to examine the above relationship he prepared four groups of experimental pastes. The preparations in each group contained the same concentration of spermicide but different amounts of mucilage of one sort or another. Each preparation in the four groups was subjected to measurements of rate of diffusion (using Baker's Standard Rate of Diffusion Test, as described in *Journal of Hygiene*, 37, 474), relative viscosity and relative

adhesiveness. The results are collected in a table and demonstrate that increasing viscosity retards very materially the rate of diffusion. In one of the groups, containing three preparations, each containing the same concentration of the same spermicide, put up in three different mucilages (potato starch, Irish moss and tragacanth) so adjusted as to have identical viscosities, it was found that the preparations had different degrees of adhesiveness and that the time taken for the spermicide to diffuse out increased somewhat with "tackiness." With regard to the other groups it was found that maximum adhesiveness was found in the middle regions; in other words, the most viscous and the least viscous preparations had relatively poor adhesive properties. Of the spermicides tested Mr. Tynen found that acids were the least affected by alteration in the consistence of the vehicle, but they have various undesirable properties which make them less suitable spermicides than some other chemicals.

**August 1942. Vol. 7, No. 4.—***A Birth Control Service among Urban Negroes.*—By John Overton, M.D., and Ivah Uffelman, R.N.—This is a brief survey of the work done at the birth-control clinics started by the public health authorities in Nashville, Tennessee, in April 1940, with the help of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (see *EUGENICS REVIEW*, October 1942, p. 103). The authors recapitulate the special need for contraceptive advice as an integral part of the health services for the Negro population in the Southern States and the difficulties encountered in persuading the women to make use of such advice. It was found that pre-clinic education of patients by trained negro public health nurses during the course of their routine post-partum visits, so as to get them used to the idea of practising some form of birth control, was invaluable; similarly adequate house to house follow-up after attendance is essential if any success is to be attained. Selection of these cases by the nurses insured that the advice reached those patients most in need of help and for whom the service was intended. Unfortunately only 638 out of 2,000 women visited and urged to attend did in fact visit the clinics. Only two methods were prescribed (diaphragm and jelly or foam powder and sponge). A fair degree of success in teaching the patients was attained. Over a period of two years 354 women used the method advised consistently and successfully; 14 preferred other methods; 241 failed to use the method regularly or properly and of these 79 became pregnant; the authors claim that in no case did an unaccountable failure occur. They consider that evidence is already accumulating of improvement in the condition of the families covered by this service with consequent benefit to the community as a whole.

*A study of Viscosity and Adhesiveness as Factors in the Efficiency of Chemical Contraceptives, Part II.*

—By John Tynen.—A study of the four groups of experimental preparation already described in Part I of this paper showed that spermicidal pastes with a simple mucilaginous base of an optimum viscosity and adhesiveness had extremely slow rates of diffusion; in other words the spermicide was released too slowly for them to be dependable contraceptives. This finding led to an investigation of methods for improving the rate of diffusion without disturbing the viscosity and powers of adhesion. It was found that this could best be done by introducing an emulsifying agent which would render the mucilage more readily dispersible in water. There is a fair number of such agents to choose from, some being soluble and others insoluble in water. In the water-soluble class the author mentions gelatin, agar and sodium oleate, and in the non-water-soluble class there is a whole range of which the author mentions two, diethyleneglycol-distearate and glycerol-monoricinoleate. In order to demonstrate the improvement in rate of diffusion after introducing an emulsifying agent, Mr. Tynen prepared a group of experimental pastes similar in every way to one of the previous groups except that each paste contained 2.5 per cent of glyceryl-monoricinoleate. These new pastes were each measured for rates of diffusion and relative viscosity and adhesiveness, and a remarkable shortening in the rate of diffusion was found together with a slight increase in power of adhesion and very slight reduction of viscosity.

The remainder of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the practical value of such tests as applied to a short series of commercial preparations.

MARGARET C. N. JACKSON.

## Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology

**July-August 1942. Vol. 33, No. 2.**—Victor H. Evjen writes on *Delinquency and Crime in Wartime*. He refers to the Home Office figures which compare the rate of increase of delinquency in England in the first year of the war with the previous year. In regard to children under 14 years of age there was a 41 per cent increase; in the age group 14 to 17 the increase was 22 per cent; and in the age group 17 to 21 the increase was 5 per cent. All children under 14 years of age were eligible for evacuation, and the marked increase in delinquency rates for this group is regarded as the result of the disorganizing experiences associated with removal from evacuation to reception areas. It is to be remembered, in considering the 5 per cent increase for the 17 to 21 age group, that many of them probably had entered the fighting services or had found employment on the production front. The decrease in the crime rate for those over 21 years of age is given as 12 per cent. The author points out that these figures

support the general contention that war increases delinquency and crime rates among juveniles and lowers the rates among adults. He enumerates the generally accepted crime-producing factors in war-time England: population movements, evacuations, broken homes, shelter life, the black-out, the increased demand for labour with consequential lack of school control and the less restrained atmosphere of industry, together with inexperience in spending money, the closing of schools, recreation clubs and playgrounds. The impact of the war on crime in America does not appear to have been fully experienced at the time of writing; but the author emphasizes the importance of maintaining the position already achieved by the probation and parole services and calls attention to the loss of personnel they have experienced through members who have entered military service.

In the same number Eleanor T. Glueck writes on *War-time Delinquency* and refers to a report recently made by the Bristol (England) Child Guidance Clinic to the effect that they have had an increase of 50 per cent in referrals of juvenile delinquents in the years 1940-1. In analyzing this increase in relation to the intelligence of the offenders it has been found, most significantly, that delinquency among the children of normal mentality (here defined as those with an I.Q. over 85) showed a reduction of 23 per cent over the years 1939-40, but a sixfold increase in delinquency among those of the dull and borderline group (I.Q. 70-85). The writer enumerates the generally accepted war-crime factors and emphasizes the disturbing effects which constant danger and acts of violence must have upon the minds of suggestible children. She agrees that such increase in crime as has occurred follows the pattern of pre-war delinquency in that war-time delinquents have the same background of wider privilege that characterizes the delinquents of pre-war days, only there are more of them because the pressures of life under war-time conditions tap the resistance level of an increasing number of youngsters and result naturally in social breakdown. Mrs. Glueck stresses the importance of preserving the welfare services which have already been built up in America and of expanding them to include areas not previously reached by such programmes. She also calls attention to the need for making young people feel that they have a stake in the total war effort. Her long experience and important studies of crime and criminals in America, together with those of Professor Sheldon Glueck, are well appreciated in this country and give added interest to her observations.

It should be remembered that generalizations concerning the causal effects of war upon crime must consider the particular circumstances of the war in question. The factors operating in the last war differ very considerably from those which are

active to-day. The factors in England associated with large-scale bombing and the possibilities of invasion are not apparent in America where these dangers are remote. Further, if we regard juvenile delinquency, generally, to be an expression of social immaturity we may believe with some confidence that after the war youth will re-adapt itself to restored social conditions and a corresponding decrease in delinquency and crime result.

W. NORWOOD EAST.

### Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly

**July 1942. Vol. 20, No. 3.**—In *Food Rationing and Mortality in Paris, 1940-1941*, Dr. Ramon F. Minoli—who returned to the United States in November 1941 after spending three years in France—compares the food value of the rations with that of the food actually consumed by sixty-five families. These families were the subject of a survey by two workers of the Institut des Recherches d'Hygiene, and this survey shows that the diets studied had a total caloric insufficiency of about a thousand calories daily, a calcium deficiency and a calcium-phosphorus imbalance and an insufficient amount of Vitamin A.

The increase in tuberculosis, particularly in cases of rapidly fatal tuberculosis, was exceedingly grave. Dr. Minoli quotes a report presented in September 1941 to the Academie de Medecine de Paris by Dr. Marcel Moine, Chief of Statistics of the Comité Nationale de Defense Contre la Tuberculose: figures from five laboratories giving the average positive results per 1,000 sputum examinations showed an increase from 54.3 in 1938 to 211.0 in 1941.

According to data supplied by the *Bulletin Bi-Mensuel de Statistique Municipal* of the City of Paris, the general mortality rate showed an increase of 7.5 per cent, but it is estimated that in the period under review the population of Paris had decreased by 400,000 from the 2,830,000 of the 1936 census. Children, adolescents and young adults had rations which varied between 1,025 and 1,379 calories, while old people had 890 calories. The mortality rate for people over 60 years of age increased by 21 per cent. "They were indubitably sacrificed in order to better, as far as possible, the ration for the adults and children who represent the productive force and the future of the community."

Gout and obesity had virtually disappeared; there had been no increase in rickets, scurvy, xerophthalmia, beri-beri, etc., but treatment for diabetes was difficult. Insulin was very scarce and reserved for the most serious cases and the mortality rate would certainly increase if present conditions were maintained.

K. H.

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